Amendments to the Specification

Please insert the following new paragraph immediately before page 3, line 10:

An exemplary embodiment of the invention is a method that includes transmitting data using a proprietary communication protocol in a system controller that includes an application controller and a plurality of applications for controlling a plurality of device controllers on a control network by using data relating to system points that correspond to data variables in the network. The proprietary communication protocol includes a plurality of predefined messages transmitted between the application controller and the applications for instructing the application controller to perform a function relating to a select system point, and for reporting to the applications in response to the instruction. The plurality of messages include a discover message transmitted from the applications to the application controller for inquiring whether the select system point is stored in a database of the application controller. The protocol also includes message identification field for identifying a select message from said plurality of messages and a protocol identification field for identifying the select message as being transmitted via said proprietary communication protocol.